Theft and Smuggling of Uranium

*54. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the instances of theft and smuggling of uranium;

(b) if so, the number of such instances during the last three years together with the quantum of uranium seized year-wise;

(c) the action taken by Government in each case; and

(d) whether Government have found any pattern in the theft and smuggling of uranium to neighbouring countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Reports have appeared from time to time regarding alleged theft/smuggling of uranium during the past four years. However, on analysis, it was found that the samples of the seized materials did not contain uranium.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Domestic sale and export targets of Indian cars

*56. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: SHRI GOPAL SINH G. SOLANKI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the average percentage of fall in the domestic sale and export targets of Indian cars during the year 1991-92, 1992-93 in comparison with previous years;

(b) what are the reasons for the decline in the domestic sale as well as in the export of Indian vehicles;

(c) what is the average target set for the export of the Indian vehicles to various foreign countries, during the year 1993-94 and who are the prospective buyers of Indian vehicles of various brands and types; and

(d) in what manner Government are encouraging the export orientation programme for the Indian vehicle industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) The fall in domestic sales of cars during 1991-92 over that of 1990-91 is around 17%. During the current year the fall is expected to be around 2% over 1991-92. The reasons for decline in domestic sales are rise in selling prices of cars due to higher cost of inputs, restricted availability of credit, high rate of interest and reduction in depreciation allowance for the customer. The export of cars during 1991-92 was 21918 as against 4392 during 1990-91, thus registering a quantum jump. The exports during the current year are estimated at around 15014. The decline in export of cars during 1992-93 is stated to be due to general recession in the European market and also disintegration of erstwhile Yugoslavia which was one of the major markets for Maruti vehicles.

(c) No target as such has been fixed for export of cars during 1993-94. The major markets for exports of Indian commercial vehicles are Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and West African countries. Maruti vehicles are being exported mainly to Italy, Hungary. portugal, Poland, Australia and West African countries.

(d) To encourage export of vahicles, Government has liberalised import of technology, upgraded vehicle testing facilities in the country to meet homologation requirements of European Community standards, created awareness amongst manufacturers of vehicles on